



Grace Newsletter

September 2017

Volunteer Job Opening: 5th – 6th Grade Sunday School Teacher

Time Commitment: September 2017-May 2018 (Substitutes available when you need them)

One of the wonderful things about Sunday School teachers is that we always need *more!* One of the frustrating and challenging things about Sunday School teachers is that we always need *more!* It's wonderful because there is room for *you* – please don't sit back and think that Grace is such a great congregation that, surely, we already have enough Sunday School teachers. Make the decision to join us this year.

Five reasons *you* should teach:

1. **The students are delightful:** They will enrich your spirit, expand your horizons and grow your faith – you need them in your life! Watch God's shaping hand in a child's life! Enjoy a great sense of accomplishment and pride in being part of something life changing!
2. **The lessons are compelling:** They will challenge your thinking, give you new ways of sharing your faith, and deepen your own relationship with Jesus Christ. The lesson plans and materials are selected and provided for you.
3. **The time commitment is finite:** You commit to a school year.
4. **The teamwork is uplifting:** The community of Sunday School leaders will delight and encourage you and help you feel the creative energy of the Spirit.
5. **You promised:** Every time a child is baptized we, the members of Grace, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to become faithful members of his church. Volunteering to lead Sunday School is a terrific way to make good on this vital promise.



Bible Study on Tuesday & Thursday

Lady's Tuesday Morning Bible Study.

Starting Tuesday, September 5, Peggy Schroeder will be leading a women's bible study here at Grace. Writer Donna Pyle and Artesian Ministries have created for LWML the study "Peter...from Fisherman to Fisher of Men". This is an eight week study with video presentation featuring Donna Pyle. The class will be from 10 am – 11:30 a.m. and will be held in the conference room upstairs. Any and all women are invited to attend. There will be some women from Zion & Pilgrim in attendance. She will need to order workbooks so please contact Peggy at 208 731-3839 if you would like to attend.

Lady's Tuesday Evening Bible Study.

Starting Tuesday, September 12, Sarah Kroll will be hosting a women's bible study at her home. (This is the same Bible Study class that was normally held at Amy's). The study will begin at 7PM discussing Malachi: A Love That Never Lets Go with Lisa Harper. On our worst day, God doesn't walk away from us. And His love for us is not determined by our performance. No matter how many times we mess up, God loves (and never leaves) broken people. "I the LORD do not change" Malachi 3:6. Please call Sarah at 208 899-3492 if you are interested in attending.

Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study.

Mark Elli leads a men's bible study on the 1st and 3rd Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m. Please call Mark if you are interested in attending (208) 514-8907.

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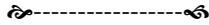
Are You Available?

“When the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’ ” (Mark 2:16-17)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I came across the article I'm sharing below and felt compelled to share it with you. I've edited it heavily for length and content. The original was much "earthier".

But I thought the point it offers was very important. I'll offer my thoughts as to that point after you read the article.



My morning office is the Waffle House. About three months ago I went into there and sat down at the counter. But I didn't notice the used coffee cup that was on the counter in front of the chair I sat in. That cup belonged to a man I will call Chuck, who happened to have gone outside to smoke a morning cigarette.

Chuck is a man who comes to the Waffle House regularly. He is a "rough" and crude man in his late 50s. He cusses a lot and gives the waitresses and customers a hard time - especially when he is "in that mood." When he came back in Chuck saw me sitting in "his chair," and said coldly, "Hey ----, you are in my seat!"

I turned to him and before I could say a word one of the waitresses who was standing there said to Chuck. "Now you listen here you ----, this man here is a ---- man of God and if you ever talk to him like that again I will kick your ----!" The other waitress jumped in, "Ya, he is my ---- pastor! Show some ---- respect!" The waitresses high-fived each other and one said to the other, "Sword of the spirit!" And Chuck turned and walked out.

I sat there trying to process what just happened! First, the waitresses have never come to my church, though I have invited them many times. And I never told the waitresses I was their pastor. But because of my coming into the Waffle House four or five mornings a week and talking, listening and praying with them, it appears that is how they saw me.

The other day they were talking about how life seemed to be attacking them. I took out my phone and I read to them from Ephesians 6 about the armor of God and explained it to them. The waitress who shouted "Sword of the spirit!" showed they were listening, although I really need to work on their application of that verse!

Fast forward to a month ago. I was walking into the Waffle House and Chuck was outside in the front smoking. I said good morning to him and Chuck kind of quietly and nicely (especially for Chuck!) asked if I had a moment. I told him sure and stopped. He said quietly as he looked at the ground, "I know you are kind of a religious guy and it's not that big of a deal but I was wondering if you would pray for me for something. I said, "Sure what's up?"

He went on to say that his doctor had just confirmed that he had prostate cancer. I said, "Of course, I'll pray for you," but before I could say anything else he began to tell me a story. The short version of this 10 minute conversation was that he used to go to church many years ago and was kind of close to God. Then he was drafted to fight in Vietnam. He said he did some things he wasn't proud of, things God couldn't forgive him for. He said he stopped praying after the war and has never gone back to church since he came back to the states.

When I asked to pray with him there, he said no, he had to leave, but for me to pray as you feel God will listen.

As he walked away my heart mourned for him and convicted me. I had joined in with others at the Waffle House at times commenting on Chuck and his behavior. I never thought that the reason Chuck was so angry and hurtful is because he was filled with guilt from things he thought were not forgivable.

Fast forward to yesterday morning. I was in the Waffle House at the bar talking with customers and the waitresses when Chuck walked in. He walked over to a side bar he never sits at and sat down. No cussing, no loud comments to people as he came in the restaurant. He looked devastated. One of the waitresses said they heard his son had died the night before.

I walked over and said good morning and his eyes began to fill with tears. I told him I had heard his son had died and if it was true, I was so sorry. We talked again for 20 minutes.

Summary, he told me his son, who was 31 years old, and some of his friends were out on the front porch talking. His son told his friends how he had bought a new pistol. They asked to see it and he went into his truck, got it out and removed the clip.

Thinking it was empty, he came back to the porch, and in handing the gun to his friend it went off and the bullet hit his son from less than two feet away. They rushed him to the hospital, but he died a few hours after he arrived.

Chuck said he and his wife witnessed it and that he couldn't get the sight out of his mind. It reminded him of the war. When he came home from the hospital he had to clean up the mess. Tears were flowing down his face. He asked me if this was God's punishment for those he killed in Vietnam. I said of course not and we talked awhile. His son had a wife and two kids 8 and 10 years old.

After we finished, I went home and my wife and I took the chicken I had grilled for dinner, along with sides, bread and a dessert, and put it in a box. I wrote a note to the family telling them I was praying for them and asking them to let me know if I could help in anyway. I put my phone number on it and put it in the box as well.

I pulled into the Waffle House just in time to catch Chuck walking to his car to leave. I gave the box to him and Chuck teared up again as he took it. He said I did not have to, but I insisted, told him I was praying for him and left.

Fast forward to today. I received a call from Chuck. He thanked me for the food. He then said he and his family do not have any money. They are getting the cheapest cremation they can and just going to do a remembrance service at their home. Their family doesn't attend a church, they don't know many church people, let alone preachers, and he asked if I would come to their house and share from the Bible some words over their son and their family. I told him I would be honored to.

I have been going to the Waffle House regularly for over three years now. Sometimes I wondered if I should continue going. Only one or two people have ever come to my church in that time. Traditional church metrics would say that my time investment hasn't led to "church growth" or increased "numbers in the pews." It hasn't resulted in one penny going into our offering plate.

Yet God reminded me of the prayer I say to him every morning, which is, "God, please send me today the ones that no one else wants." No one wanted Chuck; even I found it hard to be around him. But God, through just being faithful, gave me an amazing opportunity: to be welcomed into his house and his circle of family and friends that no other pastor had ever been invited into. He allowed me to share His love with them.

My heart's desire is not to see them as a "ministry project" but a family in pain that simply needs the love of God.

My prayer for you today, my church family, is that you will be led by the Holy Spirit to simply enter into life and the lives of people. That in your daily schedule you will allow and come to expect, even long for, interruptions from two things: God and people. Please pray the same for me.



I hope you weren't offended by the implied language at the beginning of the article. The reality is, this is the world we live in and this is how many (if not most) people express themselves, sad though it may be.

But here's the point that came home to me.

If we simply isolate and insulate ourselves from those who are different from us we will never be given the opportunity to touch their lives. I don't know about you but I'm guilty of not putting myself into a position where I would ever meet "Chuck."

I am encouraging you to be willing to take chances, chances that may allow you to be Jesus in some person's life, chances that may provide you the opportunity to show His love, mercy, and grace.

And I am also asking you to encourage me to do the same. It's just way too easy to stay busy in the office rather than stepping out of my comfort zone. I love you and want to serve you the best I can. But I also know there are other lost sheep who need to hear their shepherd's voice and my prayer is that I may be given the opportunity to direct them to Him.

God's blessings to you as we live out our faith together in this broken world and I'll see you in church.

Pastor Brooks



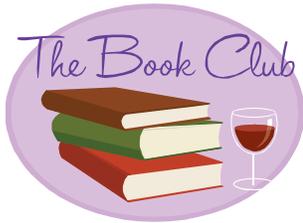
Get ready for the **First Annual Grace Lutheran Oktoberfest!** In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in Germany and the 75th

Anniversary of Grace Lutheran here in Caldwell, we are making plans to have an authentic family event on **Saturday, October 14, 2017. (NOTE: Date has changed)** Our very own Oktoberfest will have live music, beer garden, kids' games, German food, dessert, and fun for adults and youth. **We are hoping this will be something you want to come to with both family and friends.** With our beautiful new backyard, patio area and playground, we have

the perfect place to gather and celebrate our heritage. Please mark this on your calendar now.

We are looking for many volunteers to do many things large and small. We will need planners, bakers, grillers, beer servers, kids' games supervisors and leaders, set-up and of course, clean up. If you are as excited about this as we are and want to be part of the fun as we make plans, please let Pastor, Janet or Hope know. We have begun the initial work but as we get closer there will be lots to do."





The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be on Sunday, September 24 at 6:30 pm. Meeting place will be at Janet Brooks's residence. We will be reading and discussing: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Summary: *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Glass Castle is truly astonishing--a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

Any and all women are invited to join us for a heartfelt talk and a glass of wine! If you have any questions, please call Janet at 801-518-7319.



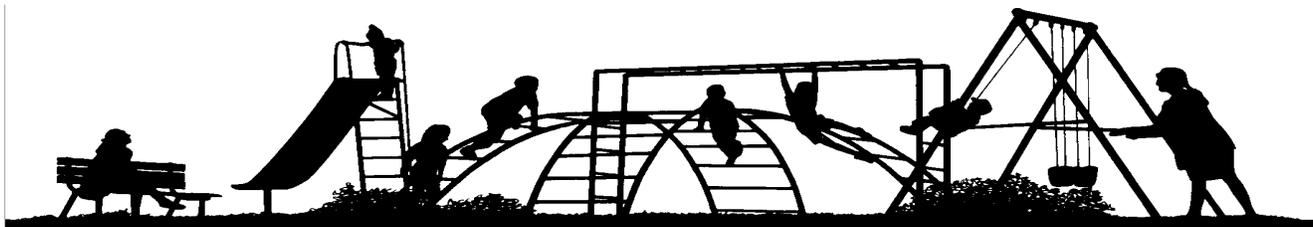
Concordia Circle/LWML—

The monthly meetings for Concordia Circle will resume on September 11th at 7:00 p.m. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. The meeting will be hosted by Ginny Neunaber and Flo Hopkins. Devotions will be given by Peggy Schroeder.

Upcoming event for LWML will be the Fall Western Zone event on October 7th at Immanuel Lutheran Church, New Plymouth.

The Utah-Idaho District LWML has paid two grants with our MITE offerings. Camp Perkins was able to update the kitchen in the retreat center with the grant presented to them. Bibles that were purchased through a grant for Prison Ministry in Salt Lake Valley will be marked and then distributed to those incarcerated in the Utah Prison system.

If you would like more information about LWML, Lutheran Women In Mission, contact a member of Concordia Circle or Barbara James.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

Our Mission Statement:

“To facilitate the love of God, promote emotional, social and intellectual growth and the physical well-being of each child.”

2017-2018 CALENDAR

Sept. 5	First Day of School	Jan. 21 - 27	Lutheran Schools Week
Nov. 7 – 9	Conferences	March 26 – 30	Spring Break
Nov. 20 – 24	Thanksgiving Break	April 24 – 26	Conferences
Dec. 17	Christmas Program	May 17	Last Day of School
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	Christmas Break	May 17	Celebration Program
Jan. 9, 2018	School Resumes		

4 Year Old Class

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The classroom is ready to welcome students! The teachers are excited to work a 4th year together. We're a good team and thrive off each other's encouraging support. This year we're incorporating even more music by teaching kids hand bells. We'll continue to have chapel the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. You're welcome to join us in the sanctuary for this fifteen minutes of special time in God's word.

With the overwhelming success of our 'Adopt a Student Program' we're excited to continue it again this year. As a church member who sponsors a child you will receive a picture and information about your student. A meet and greet is held the end of September as a kickoff for the program. Our sponsors are encouraged to pray for the student and their families, attend at least three chapels with the class and present them a gift for Christmas and Easter. Our sponsors are welcome to give as many gifts and come to as many chapels as they would like. In response the 'adopted students' will make a monthly craft for their sponsor and will keep them in their prayers. This program provides a tremendous opportunity to create intergenerational friendships, share the love of Christ and help support a young person as they grow and develop. Parents have expressed how beneficial the program has been for the students' social and spiritual growth. The church and preschool has also benefited as the bond between the two has been strengthened. If you'd like to become a sponsor please contact Julie Christiansen (208) 406-9659 or the office (208) 459-4191.

As each year begins we are given another opportunity to have an impact upon the world around us, to reach out and share the grace of God with the children we are blessed with. We pray that as we begin this journey the Lord will guide our words and direct our actions so that His love for us shines through each and every day. We ask for your prayers and support for a blessed year to come.

In His grace,  
Mrs. Julie Christiansen & Ms. Patti

## 3 Year Old Class

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Our room is decorated and our hearts are ready for the journey we are about to take spreading God's great love, exploring Bible stories and discovering the wonderful characteristics of the children we will be meeting, teaching and with God's help inspiring.

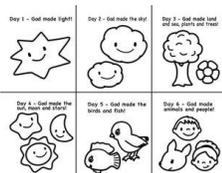
At the time of preparing this article, we might have enough students to open another class on Monday & Wednesday. We have a wait list for the first time in a long time and we are so thankful that God is directing families our way. If our numbers fall a bit short and we are not able to open an additional class we will then have 14 children in our Tuesday/Thursday class (9 boys, 5 girls).

During the month of September the children will learn about God's Creation; explore God's gift of the five senses; cover classroom safety, and work on their fine motor skills. Motor skills focus will include how to use glue sticks & bottles, correctly holding scissors, crayons and other writing instruments and maybe even a little bit of taping. Our first bible verse is Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

We are looking forward to meeting all of our new preschool families.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Raejen. His birthday is on the 20th.

Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray



1 John 4:19
We love because He first loved us.



Sunday, September 10 @ 9:15

Preschool: Patty Eckman

1st-2nd Grade: Amber Rau

3rd-4th: Patti Lawson

5th-6th: **TEACHER NEEDED**

7th-8th: Carla Shields High School: Mark Elli

Special Class: Sharon Hensen

Pastor Brooks: That the World May Know

Amy Hubach: Grace is Greater

All Youth Progressive Dinner Sunday, September 10 4:30 PM

Appetizer: Host Needed

Salad: Host Needed

Main Dish: Host Needed

Dessert: Tony & Liz Osmus

We will be planning the events for the year

Drivers NEEDED! Call or text Amy

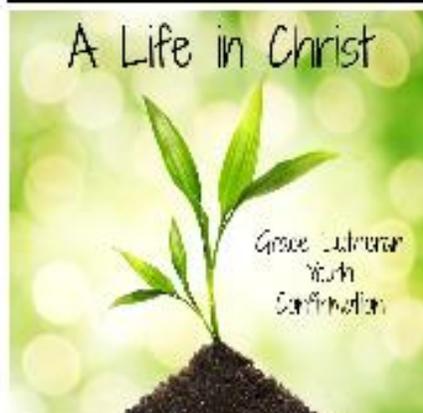


High School Bible Study

Sunday Nights at 6:30 P.M.

September 17 & 24

24th will be a service project at church



A Life in Christ

Grace Lutheran
Youth
Confirmation

Every
Sunday
12 PM to
2 PM
Questions?
Contact Pastor

M S M

September 18 @ 6:30

Woods School Sanctuary

WHOEVER DWELLS IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH
WILL REST IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. I WILL
SAY OF THE LORD, "HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS,
MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST."

PSALM 91:1-2

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px;">September 10th</div>					1	2 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
3 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion Greeters: Lance & Jenn Brock	4 Labor Day	5 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study at Grace 5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Sarah Kroll's	6 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	7 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise	8 <i>Preschool: 3's</i>	9 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
10 Sunday School Rally Day 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 75th Anniversary Event Pastor Jason Taylor & Jenn Potluck after Services 4:30 pm All Youth Progressive Dinner Greeters: Matt & Carolyn Bryden	11 <i>Preschool: 3's</i> 7:00 pm LWML/Concordia Circle	12 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study at Grace 5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Sarah Kroll's	13 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	14 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise	15	16 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
17 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 12:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm High School Bible Study Greeters: Dave & Becky Cafferty	18 <i>Preschool: 3's</i> 6:30 pm Middle School Ministry	19 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 12:30 pm Pre-K Chapel 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Elder's 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Sarah Kroll's	20 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	21 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 7:30 pm Council	22 	23 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
24 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm High School Bible Study Greeters: Jerry & Sharon Deal	25 <i>Preschool: 3's</i>	26 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study at Grace 5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Sarah Kroll's	27 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	28 <i>Preschool: 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise	29	30 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J